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on January 3, 2005

Kathy Raymond  
Kathy Raymond

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|              |                                    |              |                             |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Applicant :  | Luiz B. Da Silva, et al.           | Docket No. : | IL-10888                    |
| Serial No. : | 09/997,872                         | Art Unit :   | 3737                        |
| Filed :      | 11/29/2001                         | Examiner :   | Eleni M. Mantis<br>Mercader |
| For :        | OPTICAL PROBE WITH REFERENCE FIBER |              |                             |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is a preliminary amendment in a RCE Application. Prior to examination and in response to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows: